

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8444

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN; VE

SUBJ: REGISTRATION OF FOODSTUFF IMPORTS

REF: STATE 083950

1. REPLIES TO QUESTIONS A THROUGH E IN IDENTICAL SEQUENCE:

A. MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD Y ASISTENCIA SOCIAL FOR ALL PREPARED AND
PAKAGED OFFDS. MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA Y CRIA FOR
MANY CRUDE FOODS, VEGETABLES, LEGUMES, ETC. THE AGRICULTURAL
REQUIREMENT IS NOT ONLY OF REGISTRATION BUT RATHER IS A LICENSE.
IMPORT LICENSES ARE ALSO REQUIRED FOR MANY ITEMS FROM THE
MINISTERIO DE FOMENTO. THESE LICENSES ARE ESTABLISHED IN ORDER
TO PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

B. REGISTRATION REQUEST HAS TO BE MADE BY LOCAL IMPORTER
WHO HAS TO PROVIDE SAMPLES AND LABEL SAMPLES. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS
AND COMPLETE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, INCLUDING ADDITIVES, COLORATS,
PRESERVATIVES, IS REQUIRED. MANY SUCH ADDITIVES ARE NOT A
AUTHORIZED IN VENEZUELA AND THEIR AUTHORIZATION WILL NOT BE
GRANTED EVEN IF FDA PERMITS THEIR USE. REGISTRATION
NIMBER IS GIVEN THE PRODUCT, EACH CONCENTRATION AND EASH
PRESENTATION AND VARIETY OF A PRODUCT AND MUST APPEAR ON EACH LABEL.
THE LOCAL COMPANY WHICH REQUESTED THE REGISTRATION IS CONSIDERED
RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCT, ITS QUALITY, FULL MEASURE IN CON-
TAINER AND ANY OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

C. EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS IS DONE ONLY UPON REGISTRATION.
HOWEVER, SANNITATION INSPECTORS MAY MAKE SPOT CHECKS AT ANY
TIME . MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT MAY MAKE CHECKS AS TO WEIGHT
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OR CONTENT BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT IS CLAIMED ON LABEL.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL CHECK EACH SHIPMENT OF CRUDE FOODSTUFFS OR VEGETABLES UPON ARRIVAL AND MAY DWSTROY WITHOUT RECOURSE.

D. FEES VARY DEPENDING ON LABORATORY COSTS IF REQUIRED. THEY MAY RANGE FROM BS.500 TO BS.5,000 FOR EACH PRODUCT, EACH VARIETY, CONCENTRATION OR PRESENTATION. FEES ARE CHARGED ONLY ONCE DURING THE LIFE OF THE REGISTRATION WHICH IS UNLIMITED. HOWEVER, ANY CHANGE IN THE PRODUCT'S INGREDIENTS OR TRADE NAME REQUIRES NEW REGISTRATION.

E. CONTAINERS ARE NOT AFFECTED AND ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED PART OF THE PRODUCT. HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF HEALTH MUST BE NOTICIED IF, FOR UNSTANCEN, CHANGE IS MADE FROM GLASS JAR TO PLASTIC CONTAINER OF DIFFERENT CONTENT. MINISTRY WILL THEN DECIDE IF IT REQUIRES NEW REGISTRATION.

2. NO OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAN THOSE INDICATED UNDER A EXIST. IN ANY CASE, IT IS ONLY THE IMPORTER WHO CAN APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AND EVENTUAL LICENSES SINCE LAW REQUIRES THAT NATURAL OR JURIDICAL PERSON IN COUNTRY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. ASECIO

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